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VCNO talks candidly about Navy's future

Story by MC1 Igo Wordu, Public Affairs Office

Guantanamo Bay Sailors had the opportunity to bring their concerns to the attention of senior Navy leadership during an 'All-Hands' call with Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO), Adm. Robert Willard, held in the Wind-jammer Ballroom, Nov. 27.

The VCNO's visit to GTMO is part of a familiarization tour of Navy installations around the world.

He was accompanied by his wife, Donna, who was interested in quality of life on this unique, remote overseas location. They spent two days touring station and Joint Task Force (JTF) facilities.

ADM Willard told the assembled company of more than 400 Sailors, that although he receives regular comprehensive feedback from senior leadership in GTMO, his visit affords him the opportunity to interact directly with junior Sailors in order to gain first-hand knowledge of their living and working conditions.

"This is a discovery mission on my part," he said. "GTMO is no longer a small cadre of individuals here intending to keep the lights on. Rather, servicemembers are here now, not just dealing with the detention center, but dealing with all the logistics and support of various military activities. It is important that senior leadership pay occasional visits to installations like GTMO just to put



Photo by MC1 Robert Lamb

Vice Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Robert Willard, talks to GTMO Sailors about the future goals of the Navy.

eyes on things."

He stressed the importance of the feedback from the troops who perform their du-

ties because it guides senior leadership in making the right decisions for the Navy.

"We need to make sure that

Navy is doing what we need to do to support you here," said ADM Willard.

The VCNO addressed questions from Sailors about quality of life issues, Added Incentive Pay (AIP), retention, recruitment, states' taxes, Individual Argumentation (IA), and other incentives geared towards improving Navy's capabilities.

He explained processes involved in developing and implementing plans and strategies that make the Navy more capable in accomplishing assigned missions. He added that the Navy is working on setting aside money and approving policies to adjust incentives, high-year tenure, and Selective Re-enlistment bonuses.

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Tree-lighting
— ***The GTMO Christmas season has not begun until the lights of the Christmas display are on. Mrs. Ronnette Moore, wife of CDR Sylvester Moore, flipped the switch marking the annual holiday tradition, on Saturday, Nov. 25.***

Photo by Nichole Lamb